

To John A. Collins.

Boston, April 1, 1841.

Dear Friend:

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We had confidently anticipated your arrival in the *Caledonia*, in consequence of the assurance held out in one of your letters, that you would leave for home in the steamer of the 4th ultimo; and our disappointment was very great in not seeing you. Doubtless, you have acted in the best possible manner for the good cause, according to your views of duty; and we trust that your mission will be crowned by Heaven with complete success. But, though it may seem to you, and to our beloved co-workers on the other side of the Atlantic, that you can do more good by remaining yet longer abroad, than by returning home, yet [we are extremely anxious that you should return with the least possible delay, and resume your General Agency in behalf of our Society. We have been compelled to suspend all our agency operations during your absence, and we rely upon you to put the machinery in motion again. The friends of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society begin to complain somewhat loudly, because our Board has no agents in the field; and, consequently, they are not disposed to contribute so liberally to the funds of the Society as they would, if they could see us sending forth lecturers to stir up the people. There is no other person, at present, to whom we can look, except yourself. We believe that, however much you may ~~have~~ achieved for our cause in England, you can do more for it by being at your old post. In this opinion, all our friends agree; and it is a unanimous wish, therefore, to see and greet you, face to face, on the soil of the Puritans.]

At a special meeting of the Board of Managers of the State Society, held on the 29th ultimo, the following preamble and resolution were adopted:

"Whereas, the interests of our Society require the early resumption, by our brother John A. Collins, of his agency in Massachusetts - therefore,

Resolved, That Mr. Collins be requested to return from his present mission in England, at the earliest possible moment consistent with his sense of duty; and that Messrs. Garrison and Loring be a committee to write him on this subject.

It is in accordance with the above instructions, that we address this letter to you - deeming it unnecessary to urge your return by any additional importunity of ~~our~~ own. You have our deepest sympathies, in consequence of the ruthless assaults that ~~have~~ ^{been} made upon your character, and mission by those who have seceded from ~~the~~ anti-slavery ranks, as originally organized; but we calmly wait for a triumphant acquittal in the progress of events. We would invoke the choicest blessings of the Almighty upon all those who have given you the right hand of fellowship abroad. We are ~~so~~ confident that they will never have cause to regret their espousal of the interests of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

We remain, fraternally yours,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison,

Ellis Gray Loring.